pecially did his theory of the absolute power of the prince accord with their ideals. In practice Li Ssu was a fairly thoroughgoing Legalist and so fitted in with the purposes of Cheng. Li Ssu was older than Cheng and became so prominent that he intermarried his children with the imperial family. Undoubtedly he had great influence with his prince. The latter drew from him some items in the program of the new empire.

When all China had been subdued, the energies of Cheng and Li Ssii were directed toward consolidating the conquests into an administrative and cultural whole, toward extending the boundaries into non-Chinese territory, and toward safeguarding the frontiers.

Cheng's organization of the Empire bears all the marks of genius—whether his or Li Ssu's or a heritage from the earlier rulers and ministers of Ch'in is difficult to say. It was possibly due to all three. The feudal principalities which had given the period of the Chou both its variety and its disorder were abolished. This step was presumably made easier by the decimation of the old aristocracy in the prolonged wars which preceded the triumph of Ch'in. On the advice of Li Ssu, a suggestion that the realm be redivided into satrapies governed by members of the imperial family was rejected. Instead of rule through the old aristocracy or through members of Cheng's family, an elaborate bureaucracy was created, with diversified functions and with carefully graded honorific titles. At the capital was a numerous administrative staff divided into several departments—among them a head of military affairs, a superintendent of the chief provincial officials, a chief of archery, a superintendent of the palace officials, a commandant of the palace guard, a superintendent of the

imperial equipages, a chief justice, a supervisor of the barbarians who had submitted to the Ch'in, a chief of the police of the capital, and a head of imperial works. The Empire was divided into thirty-six—later augmented to forty or forty-one—chun, or provinces, and each of these in turn into *hsien,* or prefectures of varying sizes. Over every *chun* and *hsien* was placed a member of the bureaucracy.

The plan, it must be added, was by no means entirely new. In name and concept both *hsien* and *chiin* had come down from the Chou, although under the Chou the former had been larger than the latter. Wei Yang, moreover, had created a hierarchy with